

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

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DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /053 W

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R 080716Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8614

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 994

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN TO DELIVER FINNISH "PEACE ADDRESS" TO PODGORNY MAY 12

1. AS EXPECTED, FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION DELIVERING FINNISH "PEACE ADDRESS" TO PRESIDENT PODGORNY. " PEACE ADDRESS" INS A COLLECTION OF SIGNATURES IN SUPPORT OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE IN MOSCOW ON MAY 12, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT LATER THAN ANTICIPATED -- SINCE INTENTION REPORTEDLY WAS TO HAVE DELIVERY COINCIDE WITH SOVIET VE DAY 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRIP WAS MADE TODAY. DELAY IN ALL LIKELIHOOD TIED TO ON-GOING GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN FINLAND.

2. WE ARE TOLD BY WELL INFORMED SOURCES THAT KARJALAINEN WANTED TO TURN TRIP INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE, SUCH AS OFFICIAL VISIT, BUT WAS PREVENTED FROM THIS BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. AS IT IS, HE WILL BE JUST THE HEAD OF A DELEGATION MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN COLLECTING THE SIGNATURES FOR "PEACE ADDRESS." THE REASON FOR KARJALAINEN HEADING THE DELEGATION IS FACT THAT HE WAS

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NOMINAL HEAD OF "PEACE ADDRESS" ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS

LARGELY IN HANDS OF COMMUNICSTS AND FELLOW TRAVELLERS.

3. EXACT NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON "PEACE ADDRESS" UNKNOWN. GOAL WAS ONE MILLION, AND IT MAY BE SURPASSED SINCE HEAVY PRESSURE HAS BEEN PUT ON LEADERSHIP OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND ALL LARGE ORGANIZATIONS TO EITHER SIGN FOR ENTIRE ORGANIZATION OR SET GOOD EXAMPLE FOR MEMBERS BY BOTH SIGNING AND URGING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. IN FACT PRESSURE HAS BEEN SO GREAT THAT EVEN EXECUTIVE BOARD OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY SUCCUMBED TO IT, AFRAID OF OTHERWISE BEING BRANDED AS ANTI-SOVIET.

4. COMMENT: TRIP WILL GIVE KARJALAINEN, WHO HAS RECENTLY SUFFERED SEVERE POLITICAL SETBACK DURING GOVERNMENT CRISIS MANEUVERINGS, MUCH NEEDED PUBLICITY. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE TENTATIVELY AND UNOFFICIALLY SCHEDULED VISIT THAT PRIME MINISTER SORSA WAS GOING TO MAKE TO MOSCOW ON MAY 20 HAS BEEN CANCELLED, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, BY THE SOVIETS. CANCELLATION MAY WELL BE PRIMARILY DUE TO GROWING EXPECTATION THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT LAST UNTIL MAY 20. ANY OFFICIAL TRIP TO USSR FOR LEADING SOCIAL DEMOCRAT IS ALWAYS POLITICALLY USEFUL FOR HIM, AND THIS VISIT WOULD HAVE ALSO BALANCED KARJALAINEN'S TRIP. THE CANCELLATION WILL NOT BE QUITE AS MUCH OF A BLOW TO SORSA AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BECAUSE THE KNOWLEDGE OF IT HAS BEEN HELD VERY CLOSELY AND SORSA WILL HAVE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT USSR IN HIS NEW CAPACITY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN AFTER JUNE 8. AUSTAD

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